

as a core component of outbreak investigations. The rigorous and innovative laboratory work carried out by his team has advanced infectious disease experts' knowledge of many pathogens and their role in the human disease process. These included investigations of hantavirus, leptospirosis, West Nile virus, anthrax, SARS coronaviruses, avian and human influenza viruses, Ebola virus, Zika virus, and numerous transplant-associated infections, to name only a few. As an author of hundreds of publications and numerous textbook chapters, he is widely considered to be among the most influential infectious disease pathologists of his generation.

As chief of IDPB, Dr. Zaki is widely recognized for his personal leadership, scientific contributions, and commitment to CDC's public health mission. Among his many awards are the HHS Secretary's Awards for Distinguished Service, which he received nine times and is the highest honor at HHS. Known and respected for his humbleness, Dr. Zaki was uncomfortable with personal accolades and always quick to point to the efforts of his IDPB colleagues and others. Dr. Zaki was a generous teacher and mentor of younger scientists, friends, and former colleagues.

My prayers are with Dr. Zaki's wife Nadia, his two children, and friends during this difficult time. I am grateful for his dedication at the CDC, and I am honored to recognize his extraordinary contributions today.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT JASON JENKINS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize CMSgt Jason Jenkins for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and the Senate as a Legislative Defense Fellow. Jason served as a vital part of my team in 2020. He was a trusted adviser on issues relating to the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Jason's effort and reliability distinguished him as a valuable member of my legislative team. In particular, Jason played an integral role in the recovery of Fort Smith native and World War II combat pilot Lt. Henry Donald Mitchell's remains, a mission 77 years in the making.

Jason took his responsibility to bring his fellow airman home very seriously. His steadfast dedication and persistence were crucial to its success. He worked tirelessly to ensure the United States and Austrian officials, private landowners, and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency leaders coordinated and engaged to achieve the right outcome. It would not have been possible without the efforts of Jason. He helped bring closure and resolution to Lt. Mitchell's community and loved ones, allowing them to close that chapter and find the comfort that been so elusive after his remains were buried in the Fayetteville National Cemetery.

Jason also diligently worked to help secure resources for our servicemembers, their families, and Arkansans through his support of the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee and the successful passage of the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. His passion to serve veterans and their families was demonstrated through his contributions to veteran legislation he advised on, including the John Scott Hannon Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019.

I also want to thank Jason's wife, Jami, and his children, Mike and Skyla, for their support of Jason's continued service to the U.S. Air Force. As the son of an Air Force master sergeant, I understand service to the Armed Forces is a family affair and is impossible without their sacrifice and unconditional support. Jason's son Mike has followed in his dad's footsteps and is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force in London.

A special highlight during Jason's time in my office was his promotion to chief master sergeant, a testament to his family, unlimited potential, and passion to serve others.

Jason, thank you for your continued service to the U.S. Air Force and for your time working in my office. It was our privilege to have you as a part of our team. My office will always welcome you. I know that you will be an asset to whatever future endeavors you pursue, and I wish you and your family the best.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CARLOS SANCHEZ

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize SMSgt Carlos Sanchez for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force and the Senate as a Legislative Defense Fellow. Carlos has served as a vital part of my team since January 2021. He has been a trusted adviser on issues relating to the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Carlos enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 2002. His continued service is a reminder of the sacrifices necessary to maintain the opportunities available to us as U.S. citizens.

Carlos's effort and passion to serve distinguished him as a valuable member of my legislative team. His determination was evident and helped lead to passage of the transformative SAVE LIVES Act, which allowed the VA to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all veterans and their spouses. When preparing for a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing earlier this year, Carlos posed a question that led to the introduction and passage of this critical legislation.

Carlos was also instrumental in the final months of the effort that led to the recovery of World War II combat pilot Lt. Henry Donald Mitchell. After years of work by Lt. Mitchell's brother, Bob Mitchell, and my office to lo-

cate and return this Fort Smith native home, Carlos helped ensure the authorities could access and correctly identify Lt. Mitchell.

His desire to serve his fellow airmen was demonstrated through his work in coordinating the first visit by Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force JoAnne Bass to Little Rock Air Force Base. Because of that experience, I believe the needs of our airmen and their families were further elevated and will result in an even higher prioritizing of getting them the resources and support needed to successfully execute their mission.

Carlos's steadfast dedication to serve and support the people of Arkansas has been inspirational. While in Arkansas, he spoke with and listened to the concerns of Arkansan veterans and their families, then worked tirelessly to ensure their concerns were heard and issues were resolved.

We have been very fortunate during Carlos's time in my office. I also want to thank his wife, Laura, and his daughters Sophia and Isabella, for their support of Carlos's time in uniform. As the son of an Air Force master sergeant, I understand service to the Armed Forces is a family affair and is impossible without their sacrifice and unconditional support.

Carlos, thank you for your continued service to the U.S. Air Force and for all your heartfelt, committed work as a member of my staff. It was our privilege to have you as a part of our team, and our office will always welcome you. I know that you will remain an asset to our military and veterans in addition to any other endeavors you pursue, and I wish you and your family the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARIA GOMEZ

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary leader, a visionary healthcare advocate, and a tireless champion for the people of my state and for citizens across the National Capital Region: Maria Gomez. Ms. Gomez is retiring this month after 33 years as the president and CEO of Mary's Center, a renowned federally-qualified health center that she founded in 1988, and which has transformed the lives of countless individuals and families throughout our region. Her tireless efforts to improve the health and well-being of underserved families and individuals in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area have left an indelible mark on our communities, and her lifetime of service has inspired a new generation of activists, advocates, healthcare leaders, and public servants. I would like to share her story today and have the course of her life forever written into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Ms. Gomez immigrated to the United States from Colombia with her mother